

# Can Women be Diesel Technicians?

**YES!**



**Idaho Wages**  
Hourly wage \$10.96 to \$23.79  
Median wage \$17.35

## Preparation

### To be a Diesel Technician one must:

- have a high school diploma or GED;
- complete a formal training program;
- complete on-the-job training; and
- have mechanical aptitude.
- College of Southern Idaho offers a Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science degrees.

## Idaho Employment

1244 jobs— Large Occupation  
23.1% —annual growth  
61— high annual openings

Nationally, women make up 1.4% of the labor force.  
Source: US Dept of Labor (2006)

## Job Outlook

Trucks and other diesel equipment are being used more to carry goods locally and between cities. Since diesel engines usually last longer than gasoline engines, they are more economical and save companies money, and companies are expected to buy more diesel trucks. This increase in the use of diesel equipment will increase the number of jobs for diesel mechanics. This career attracts many people because of the high wages and the challenging work.

*"Nobody thinks of becoming a diesel mechanic. There are no natural pathways to this job, but as a diesel mechanic you can make more money and you have the freedom to pick the employer you want to work for because there is a great demand for qualified technicians."—M.Robertson, Women Tech World*

Diesel Technicians repair machines used in agriculture, construction, logging, and other industrial work. They maintain equipment so that it operates properly and safely. When equipment breaks down, they examine it for defects. Mechanics often use hand-held computers to diagnose components that need repair. They may take the equipment apart to inspect or repair various parts. Sometimes they use jacks or hoists to lift or move large parts.

Diesel Technicians check parts for damage using gauges and meters. They may clean parts by spraying them with or soaking them in solvent. They grease and oil parts that need it. Mechanics repair or replace damaged or worn parts. They use hand tools to remove the parts and machine tools to repair some parts. If necessary, mechanics use welding equipment to weld broken frames or parts.

## Regardless of Gender Diesel Technicians Must:

- Perform routine maintenance checks to ensure machines function well.
- Operate or inspect heavy equipment to locate defects.
- Use meters and hand-held computers to diagnose components that need repair.
- Take apart heavy equipment to examine or repair parts. Use hoists to lift or move large parts. Put equipment back together.
- Examine parts for damage, using gauges and meters.
- Clean parts by soaking them in solvent or spraying them.
- Repair or replace damaged or worn parts or components. Use hand and machine tools.
- Weld broken frames or parts. Use electric or gas welders.
- Test repaired equipment for proper operation and safety.
- May specialize in one type of work, such as engines, transmissions, brakes, or electrical systems.

**For More Information Contact**  
**College of Southern Idaho**  
**Center for New Directions**  
**Non Tradition Occupations Program**  
**Canyon 105—Phone 732-6688**  
**Diesel Program—Levi Perkins Phone 732-6371**